

**SECOND
HARVEST
FOOD BANK
OF METROLINA**

Together We CAN End Hunger

News Release

Walmart 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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5th Annual Santa Express to Provide Gifts to Over 14,000 High Need Students Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina To Visit 27 Schools in 13 Counties December 3 – 12, 2019

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (December 2, 2019) – On **Tuesday, December 3rd**, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina (SHMETROLINA) will kick off their **5th Annual Santa Express in partnership with Walmart**. The event will provide holiday gifts of apples to each school along with items like toiletries, socks, school supplies and shoes to over 14,000 **high need elementary school students** in **27 schools in 13 counties** served by the Food Bank. The location for the kick-off will be **Steele Creek Elementary School** located at 4100 Gallant Lane, Charlotte, NC. 28273. **The kick-off starts at 10:00am on Tuesday, December 3rd**, and will include a few words from our friends at Walmart about Santa Express, unloading by Food Bank team members and distribution of items to classrooms by Walmart volunteers. The media is invited to follow the Santa Express team as they visit with the children and teachers.

The goal of SHMETROLINA's Santa Express is to spread holiday cheer and spirit to children in need. There are over 188,000 children in the Charlotte Metro region who struggle with hunger. Families already struggling to put food on the table don't have extra for gifts for birthdays and holidays. They also often don't have extra money to pay for fresh fruits and vegetables when grocery shopping and often times have to settle for less expensive and less nutritious food options.

Beginning December 3rd, SHMETROLINA team members will deliver items to elementary schools in the following counties in North and South Carolina: Mecklenburg, Rowan, Cabarrus, Montgomery, Anson, Lancaster (SC), York (SC), Cherokee (SC), Rutherford, Cleveland, Gaston, Burke, and Lincoln. A full schedule, including dates and times of deliveries is attached.

Members of the media are invited to join the caravan to each school to film and photograph the distribution. This will make for great holiday stories leading up to Christmas. **For more information about Santa Express 2019 contact Donna Ragan, SHMETROLINA Marketing & Communications Manager at dragan@secondharvest.org or 704.805.1724.**

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About Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina – As part of Feeding America, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina (SHMETROLINA) serves 19 counties in North and South Carolina. In FY2018-2019, SHMETROLINA distributed over 60 million pounds of food and household items to over 770 non-profit agencies including emergency pantries, soup kitchens, senior programs, shelters, low-income daycares, veteran assistance organizations, and animal rescues. Follow the Food Bank on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Linkedin](#), and [YouTube](#).

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